

# point 3

November 1989

in this issue:

## CREATING CONFIDENCE

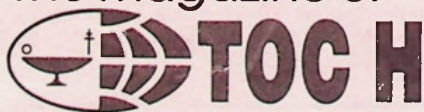
A visit to Ucañduit Two

## THE PRACTICE OF LIBERATION

The conflicts of South America

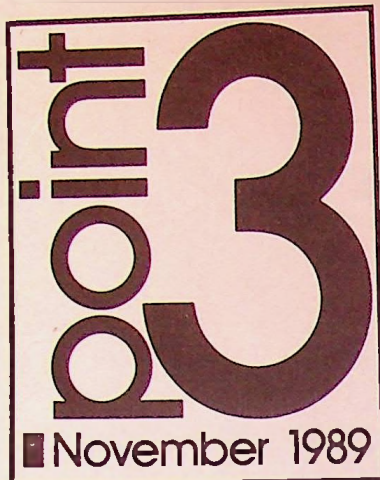


The magazine of



price 20p





## The magazine of **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P. B. 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## More than just a Newsletter

It is two years since my first editorial appeared on this page. A good time for review. . .

Editorial policy can never be static - it must respond to changing circumstances. It seemed critical to me, when I took over, that the Toc H magazine should challenge some of the movement's inward-looking complacency by turning at times to aspects of our world to which it was not responding. Today's society is vastly different from that in which Toc H originally flourished and its role is no longer always clear. It seemed essential to put it in context - to relate Toc H to the people to whom it wished to offer 'service' and to whom it claimed to be 'witnessing humbly'. This is one reason why an in-house magazine has carried features about apparently external subjects.

The other reason is that I have assumed that the magazine's role is not simply to report Toc H's endeavours to live by its Four Points of the Compass, but to play an active part in furthering the third of those Points, after which it is named. This calls on members 'to find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others'. Muslims, the disabled, homosexuals and the homeless are some of the groups whose views and feelings *Point 3* has brought to its readership over the past two years. In so doing it has tried to lift some of those comforting labels to reveal the complexity beneath. It goes without saying that I do not expect readers to *become* Muslim, homeless, homosexual or disabled in their enthusiasm to understand these people's perspectives.

But the magazine has continued to concern itself primarily with internal Toc H affairs. Over the last year, some 70% of its pages were entirely filled with

material about Toc H or its members, and a good proportion of those remaining also carried such information. These included articles intended to bring into open debate issues being widely aired in private - such as structure, image and our relationship with Toc H South Africa. I am always exploring ways of extending the range and vitality of Toc H reporting, for it is part of my job to make sure that news coverage is adequate and appetising. But in the end I can do nothing if uninformed. If there are not enough features about exciting Toc H work, it is either because I am not told about that work or because it is not being done. At present, I use all the material sent in with very few exceptions. The problem is that I receive so little.

An editor's influence can be overrated. He or she does not commission all the articles that appear and may agree with none of them. Yet, inevitably, a magazine will be influenced by the judgments and preoccupations of the individual in charge. My own interest in religious matters has been clearly evident: of the editorials alone over the past couple of years, over half have been on religious themes, the majority specifically Christian. A number of these explored Toc H's Christian basis and made some effort to interpret that for today's society. The type of spirituality expressed in these and in the rest has reflected my personal approach and my own experience: I have been reluctant to use familiar phrases and more intent on wondering what they might mean.

I am delighted that *Point 3* has provoked such discussion during these two years. For it seems to me that its function is not to be simply a newsletter, but to inform and stimulate. . . and to entertain.

**Judith Rice**

Editor: Judith Rice  
Designer: Sybil A. Chick

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 38 Newark Street, London, E1 2AA. Tel: 01 375 0547.

*Point 3* is available from Toc H Despatch Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911.)

### Cover

In the Ucaudit Two workshops (see *Creating Confidence*, pp. 3-4).  
Photo: Keith Crocker

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Price: 20p per copy or £2 per year subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.



# Creating Confidence

In September, *Point 3* reported on the opening of Ucaudit Two in Newcastle. This month, Norah Anderson describes its work and meets some of the people who use it.



Photo: Keith Crocker

*Volunteers being taught woodwork.*

Ucaudit has moved to new premises, two units in factory workshops, where it was relaunched as Ucaudit Two on 10th July by a local celebrity. You can go there to learn about computers and woodwork. If that is all you see open your eyes.

Look outside the door. You see people hanging about aimlessly. Falling unemployment figures have not changed much here: the gangs of local children waiting to break into any cars left parked; the local housing estate where a police van was raided recently; a mosque which serves the local population, many of whom are too frightened to step outside their houses; a pub which seems to sell not only alcohol. . . . At first glance the area has very little reason to be hopeful. This is the inner city, inner city Newcastle. The faces on the streets may change but the problems don't.

Look inside the door of Ucaudit and meet some local people. Rita has been coming here for over three years - she's been unemployed for the 10 years since she was made redundant. Before coming in she found it a problem filling her day even though she's very involved with her church. The future does not seem to include a new job. She comes in on Tuesdays and Thursdays mainly as a way of meeting people and to enjoy the company. She uses the computer for fun and always keeps busy. Through Ucaudit she has been involved in some Toc H activities - a couple of projects at Colsterdale and the Trail of Two Cities - which have increased her confidence. Here she has found fellowship and friends, which makes a difference to Rita's average week.

Alan is busy using the wordprocessor to produce novels. He is trying to get a novel published. Many of his articles have been printed, but not a novel, yet. Alan is a talented man trained in electronics, an

accomplished artist as well as a writer. He is well motivated and organised, yet he has not been in full-time work for 9 years. Using the wordprocessor makes it so much easier to type up novels and so may help a publisher to be interested.

Terry has been unemployed for two years, the only time in his life he has been without a job. He found out about Ucaudit from a neighbour who attends in between heavy drinking sessions - each of which, he promises, will be the last. He has only been attending for two weeks but is already learning a great deal about woodwork, and wishes he had known about it before as it fills his time and gives him a chance to meet people.

Kenny, Jimmy, Alan, Dave and Phil will be in the workshop all day every day treating it as an alternative to work. Some of them say that before they would get up to no good during the day, so this has been a way of keeping them busy and out of trouble. Others are pleased to be able to get out of the house as a break from their families. Most of them have been coming in for a long time, Kenny being one of the first users when it opened over five years ago. They have been involved in many activities; in particular they have learnt a lot about woodwork and are now producing a wide assortment of professional goods. Most of them work on their own articles but they will help each other out with advice and will muck in together. They have met people with whom they would not usually have come into contact and have really got to know many of them, sharing the good and bad of people's lives.

Marion wanted somewhere to go during the day when she retired as a midwife. Originally she came intending to learn about computers, but was soon side-tracked into the woodwork shop where she worked hard to learn new skills, in what was then a very younger male



# At the Grave of an Unknown Soldier, Ramparts Cemetery, Ypres

Toc H started in the mud and misery of Flanders during the First World War. In November, everyone will be remembering those who died in both World Wars. Frank Perkins, whose father was one of those killed on the Somme in July 1916, is a long serving member of Toc H, currently of North Hinksey Branch. He has sent us the following poem, which originally appeared in *The Journal* 1934. He had stuck it into a book in which he kept a record of his only visit to Poperinge, in Easter 1936. 'It is', he writes, 'not a poem that should be lost sight of'.

Unknown, they said . . . and so they marked his  
resting place  
Unknown . . . amongst a million of the dead.  
But the roses know:  
Adorn they not his headstone with their beauty?  
The birds, singing of life eternal, know;  
The wind, the gentle rain, the sun  
Sending glad beams unto the sacred earth - they know  
And whisper to the ear attuned . . . your brother!  
You! who stand before his grave  
In sorrow, prayer, or thankful pride  
That he should make such sacrifice for you -  
Your hands are red,  
Your heart is guilty, and your prayers  
Impotent as the drifting smoke,  
If firm resolve starts not within your breast  
That wars shall cease,  
That bloody slaughter, murder man by man  
Shall pass from this our world  
And peace our God would will  
Shall stay - so that his soul may rest.  
He was your brother!

Anon.

Printed in the Toc H  
*Journal*

November 1934

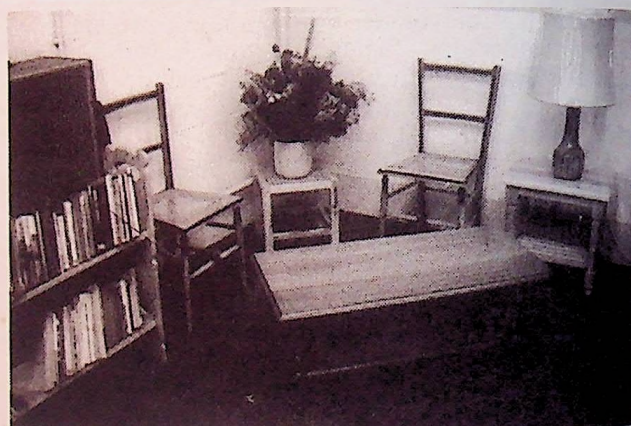
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dominated area. Much to the surprise of many of the men she has produced good articles and made many friends amongst her fellow woodworkers. She says: 'Everyone is helpful and you meet different people'.

Peter has been in a local hospital for the mentally handicapped for 25 years, and has recently been placed out into the community. He got married just over a year ago. He comes in on a Monday and Friday. Originally his social worker brought him, but after a few weeks he managed to find his own way here. He has, with some help, made a bookcase and a bird table. At first when attending he would be too frightened to eat his meals in front of anyone so would sit quietly in the corner; now he joins in the breaks with everyone, with all the lads keeping a watchful eye over him and making sure he gets his favourite pie and chips.

There are a handful of people who happen to be around at the moment - many others come and go, some with a definite purpose, others to meet a friendly face and share some news. All find a lot more to Ucanduit than machines and a chance to learn. One woman when she first came said the place had a 'sort of healing' about it. It may not be everyone's choice of words but it sums up the atmosphere.

Ucanduit would have closed last year when the government funding stopped in favour of more formal opportunities under Employment Training. You can only wonder what would have happened to lots of individuals if it had closed. Now funding is provided by the Church Urban Fund, Department of Social Security, Inner City Partnership, William Leech, Priory Trust and a London Trust. This will last for another year but then the future is uncertain.



Furniture produced in the Ucanduit Two workshops . . . which is selling well.

Many people in the past have wondered if work like this is really Toc H. When talking to people I was surprised myself how often phrases, such as 'friendship', 'really meeting people' and 'acceptance' came up in conversation. The comments sound very similar to those of many volunteers on projects, and to those of members describing why they joined a branch. Even for those who use this as no more than a meeting place when they are down, it is a place to be themselves as individuals rather than a number or a statistic or a type of problem.

It gives the chance to make something more of life by learning new skills, to be part of a group and take responsibility for others, and to offer help at times to the local community.

Norah Anderson is a Toc H Development Officer (Projects) based in Newcastle. She worked at



# Arthur Moe Smells Success

The Third and Final Part of a Short Story by  
Scott Shaw



Arthur almost ran back to the table with the tea. An old dog, sprawled in the aisle, whipped its tail from under his foot with perfect timing; it had encountered him before.

'There you are, Bill. Now let's hear it - what else can we do to make the branch more attractive?'

Bill sat back. 'I'll bounce the question back at you, Arthur. What would you look for in a branch?'

Arthur thought. 'First - friendly people. And they must be sincere - I don't like the jolly, backslapping sort. If they don't genuinely care, I'm not interested. Then - a firm commitment to Toc H principles, interesting things to do, a sense of fun - they must be able to let their hair down occasionally. . . ' He gazed absently at one of the punks, whose hair stood out from his head in three stiff green spikes.

Bill nodded. 'I agree, although things may actually happen in a slightly different order. People will generally discover friendship and commitment when they come along, but the "things to do" will get them there in the first place - at least, if that's how you want to play it. I mean there's at least two ways to start this - you could call it the "action way" and the "social way". Let's talk about the action way first.'

Arthur frowned. 'But that's just the trouble - have you forgotten? We haven't got the members for any interesting new jobs. It's back to square one.'

Bill grinned. 'Come on, Arthur. It's not as hopeless as it seems. You've got to act positive! It's quite straightforward. Basically, you plan some interesting jobs in the community, the sort of jobs that speak of an imaginative, adventurous branch, then tell the community that you need lively volunteers to help you.'

Arthur managed to look indignant, incredulous and offended all at once. 'You mean deliberately biting off more than we can chew?'

'Exactly. It's a gamble but Toc H was built on people taking chances. Just make sure what you're biting off is something interesting and challenging. You may even have to give up some of your existing jobs and pass them on to others. That's what Toc H is meant to do anyway. We're supposed to be pioneers, laying roads and building bridges, not putting down roots.'

'Sounds good,' said Arthur between sips, 'but where do you find all these challenging jobs?'

'Simple. Here's one way. What is a challenging job?'

Arthur didn't hesitate. 'One that's enjoyable. It asks a lot of you. Stimulating. One that cries out to be done.'

'Good. Why?'

'Because if it isn't done, people will be worse off.'

'Why?'

'Because something's gone wrong and they'll suffer or be inconvenienced in some way.'

'When things go wrong, how do you know?'

'Someone kicks up a fuss.'

'How?'

'In the local newspaper, usually.'

Bill nodded. 'That's it Arthur. Look at your local paper for things that need putting right. Choose one or two that could be tackled by a small group of people, then tell the same newspaper that you intend to have a good try at putting them right - but emphasize that you'll need help. Next, call a public meeting to discuss your plans. Borrow or hire a small hall - *don't* use your branch room - and again, tell the newspapers what you're doing and why. If the newspapers are weeklies, give them plenty of notice - I'd suggest two weeks. Do some nice big posters too, and get them up in places like local shops, launderettes and churches, again in good time. Don't have the meeting on a Friday or a Saturday, or when people are likely to be glued to their tellys. The rest is up to you. If people are interested enough to come along, a few will be interested enough to help you. Emphasize it's them and you together. Tell them that without their help, you can do nothing.'

Arthur was excited now. 'We could give them details of membership too - '

'No Arthur. If someone asks about it, don't put them off - just ask them to speak to you afterwards.'

Arthur's face fell. 'Why?'

'Because that's not the purpose of the meeting. We're inviting them to put something right, together. They may have come through different motives - frustration, indignation, compassion - and they'll want to get down and get started. Perhaps soon, perhaps later you can speak to them about membership - perhaps never, Arthur. It depends on the person. Some people are doers but they aren't joiners. They'd feel threatened if they sensed any formality. You don't have to sign a form to join the human race and that's what we're talking about. It all boils down to doing things because we care about people, and for some of your helpers, *that* could be a personal discovery in itself. Paperwork doesn't come into it - not at the start, anyway.'

Arthur sat, thinking.

'... how are we going to keep them if they aren't members? They could just walk out and not come back.'

Continued overleaf 5



# DEFEATING HUMAN ERROR!

by Alec Rose

By now every member should have received his/her membership card from the computer. Not before time, you might well think, as the year end approaches! A few members may have been omitted or have had cards specially typed - are such people freaks? Are they on a blacklist? Does the computer make mistakes?

The answer to all these questions is probably the same. I cannot be categorical about the freak-free nature of Toc H members, nor indeed swear blind that there are no blacklists of whose existence I am ignorant; but I can assure everyone out there that the computer *never* makes mistakes. The operator has been known to, but that is another matter.

## ■ Continued from previous page

Bill closed his eyes and counted to 10. 'Arthur, if they want to go, having their name on a piece of paper won't stop them. It's not the army. You told me, not five minutes ago, what would attract you to a branch. That's what would *keep* you there too - flesh and blood people, likeable people, committed people, amusing people, adventurous people. You didn't say anything about membership, and you were right. It's *people* who make you feel you belong. You don't need a form to prove it.'

There was a pause. 'About friendship. . .' said Arthur, slowly. He frowned. It was obvious he was still thinking it out. 'Some people may join - sorry, come to us - because they need friendship far above all else. . . suppose they were recently divorced, or. . . perhaps they'd been in prison and felt, well, apart from people. . .'

Arthur didn't notice, but one of the punks was staring at him, hanging on every word.

'... perhaps they need a sort of healing, just want to be *with* us. OK, maybe they'd come along and offer to help but perhaps they'd not be much good at anything. . . and it wouldn't matter. Do you remember Billy? He was a bit slow. Other people laughed at him, but we didn't. He noticed that. And Doris - she was with us for six months but had to go away. They both got something out of our meetings.'

'Not the meetings, Arthur,' said Bill, ' - the people. They simply enjoyed *you*.'

Arthur, a bit embarrassed, nodded and continued: 'You said there were at least two ways to start building up the branch and I thought - '

'You thought right, Arthur. You could approach it from the friendship angle. Perhaps you could advertise a ramble, a picnic at a local beauty spot, a speaker or a

Why is the computer necessary? What does it do?

As far as the membership is concerned, the computer holds records of the relevant personal details of each member. This is a fairly large database, therefore, with over 7000 individual records on it. The relevant details include obvious ones like name, address and branch; also a record of subscription/ covenants, offices held, and from April this year a full record of payments made either to branches or centrally. This database can be modified, so if you can think of other useful information which might help Toc H and which is not obviously confidential, please let me know.

This database is continuously updated; members move house, marry, resign or die, new members join, branches collapse or are reformed. This information is generated by word of mouth or by written record. Errors which inevitably occur from time to time are a consequence of erroneous information or of operator error; they are never computer errors as such. Updating is a time-consuming and tedious business, and to some extent it has to be squeezed in between other calls on the computer. The record will never be totally up to date for obvious reasons. But we make every effort to update it as frequently as possible. Several people do this task in addition to myself - Tricia, Angela, Stephen and Linda.

film, a chess tournament or a whist drive, and simply bring people together for the sake of it.'

'Unconditional friendship,' suggested Arthur.

'... Unconditional friendship,' Bill agreed. 'It could be what people need first. If that's what you think is the local need, then go for it. But don't think of it as the easy option. If friendship is to be truly unconditional, you can't exclude someone because they're sometimes rude, or don't wash very often, or may be mentally ill. You may get what some people call misfits.'

Arthur was unconcerned. 'That won't bother us. I've seen people changed by friendship. It happened to Billy and Doris, and even if they don't change, we can handle it.'

Bill leaned back in his chair. 'I'm sure you can, Arthur.'

Both men walked happily out of the cafe and parted with a handshake as Bill boarded his bus home.

As Arthur turned round, he bumped into one of the punks. The lad spoke, hesitantly. 'I was in the caff. I heard you and your mate talking about this Toc H thing - it seems a good outfit.' He stopped and looked down. 'My dad's been in the nick for six months and I've not been to see him yet. You said you do prison visiting - when you go next time, can I come with you?'

Arthur looked at him. Others would have seen the green hair, the large single earring and the stained leather jacket. He saw only the lad's feelings. They were written all over his face: a mixture of embarrassment, confusion and anxiety.

He smiled. 'Sure mate. Let's talk about it.'

Together, they walked back towards the cafe.

■ Scott Shaw was on the Toc H staff between 1975 and 1983.



From the database, information and reports can be generated at will. This is where the computer is so superior to human power. For example it will select a branch and print membership labels for that branch in alphabetical order (or any other order) in about two minutes. This task would take many manhours to do using a card index. 10 years ago, I am reliably informed that there were four full-time and two part-time members of staff at Wendover dealing with the membership and builders. Now there is one full-timer and one part-timer, plus occasional support from other staff. Branch rolls went out in February as promised and as usual. Membership cards for those branches which were prompt with their returns went out on 22 May. Late returns are being dealt with as and when, and have to be fitted in with other work. This level of service would not be remotely possible without the computer. This is just one example of one kind of task required of the membership record, which is itself just one database among many others in the machine.

I hope this information is interesting to members. I welcome any constructive comment on how the computer can be made more responsive to the needs of Toc H.

■ *Alec Rose is a Computer Operator at Toc H Headquarters in Wendover*



Photo: Maureen Williams

*The staff at Wendover who work on the computers. From left to right: Angela, Alec, Tricia, Stephen and Linda.*

## A Course in the Art of Living

**John Dickson reports on an unusual weekend which he helped to set up in Birmingham in the summer.**



Why do we do some things? Have you ever taken a course of action with no clear idea of what you were doing or where it would lead? Setting up this course was not the most obvious use of the time of a Toc H member of staff. I knew that some people would be upset and some suspicious, so why did I stick my neck out?

I had never met the Guru before the first day of the event, and did not have a clear idea of what he would try to teach us. Sharda Lavingia, who is a Hindu, was the person who suggested that we should jointly organise the event. I had known her for two years, and liked and trusted her. She has a very high regard for Toc H and would like to join us as a member. I hope that some people in their desire to protect the Christian nature of Toc H do not succeed in driving her away from membership.

The event itself was a great success. 40 people came, which assured the financial side of the venture - we

used none of the subsidy that had been on offer from Toc H. I do not feel any need to describe and justify the two days. Spending time in that way dignifies those who see this as a Satanic plot, and I do not see that it is my responsibility to assist such people. I believe that some people are treating this as a dangerous flirtation with the Hindu religion. The Swami wants to make his courses as secular as possible. He does not see himself as a Hindu, and talks as often about Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. My view of God is that there is one God for all the religions of the world. This means that in my dealings with people from any faith or none, I see them all as the children of God. The love of God is not to be hoarded, and spent only on other Christians with whom we agree, it is to be given out to all. It is part of my understanding that in return I can receive the love of God from any human being. It is man who divides man from man on the basis of their beliefs - I do not believe that God works in that way. Communication does not weaken my Christian faith, it strengthens it; it helps me better to understand the love of God.

Sitting and talking to this Swami felt very good. His insights reinforced what little understanding I had reached in my own spiritual life. I felt no threat to my Christian faith from a man who radiated a supreme peace and love. Those who do not want this for themselves I can understand - there will always be many paths to God - but trying to stop us with the idea that Pandit Ravi Shankar is trying to steal our souls is nonsense, and not borne out by the Toc H members who did attend. I feel that good and evil are easy enough to distinguish. This course taught me something, and I feel better for it. It may teach me how to relax better, how to meditate, and even how to commune with God.

■ *John Dickson was on the staff of Toc H until September this year. He is now Director of the National Association for the Childless.*



Andrew Dawson talks about his impressions of Central America, which he visited in order to look at 'base ecclesial communities' - so called because they are made up of people from the grass roots or 'base' of society. They consist of 15 to 30 individuals and function as small Christian units which are very much involved in the struggle for justice in their continent. They often suffer great oppression and hardships.

The cab ride from San Salvador airport into the city proper - the capital of El Salvador - took approximately an hour. It was an hour I shall never forget. During this journey, taken in the comfort of an air-conditioned taxi, I first witnessed absolute poverty and squalor in the flesh. Entire families lived in shacks which were no bigger than my parents' back yard shed - and which were in a worse condition. Children looked through garbage for something to satisfy their hunger or clothe their nakedness. Dishevelled people toiled on the roadside land, attempting to eke out a meagre living from barren rock. All the fertile land lies in the hands of the rich and powerful and they intend to keep it that way. Every two or three miles along the side of the road an insignificant cross marked the spot where the body of a victim of one of the 'death squads' (army controlled assassination units) had been found, usually brutally disfigured by torture and shot through the head.

**'the cost of discipleship for these people often ends with a knock on the door and a bullet through the head'**

During our short stay we heard many stories of assassinations among church members. We heard of one region near Mt San Salvador where there existed 38 base communities. A Belgian priest named Father Deneux had been working with them until he received a death threat which caused him to flee for his life to the safe haven of Nicaragua. During the 11 years in which Father Deneux had been away from the communities, over 430 people had been executed by the death squads.

Yet despite all of this the communities are going from strength to strength. Here, in this war-torn and fearful land, the challenge of Jesus to 'take up your cross' hits with the full force of its original intent - the cost of discipleship when facing a vicious and dictatorial power. For Jesus, such discipleship ended with crucifixion; for these people it all too often ends with a knock on the door and a bullet through the head.

As we travelled through El Salvador, one day in FMLN country (the FMLN are left-wing anti-government fighters), another in government controlled sectors (here being followed by the secret police), all the members of our international group felt the horror of First World exploitation and domination. We were stopped by the army and herded out of the bus at gunpoint - yet even then we did not feel the true fear that must exist in the minds of the people of El Salvador. For we were Westerners unlikely to be harmed by these 14 and 15 year old soldiers clad in uniforms marked with the United States issue stamping.

# The Practice of Liberation



*Dwellings in San Salvador, many of which are without running water and electricity*

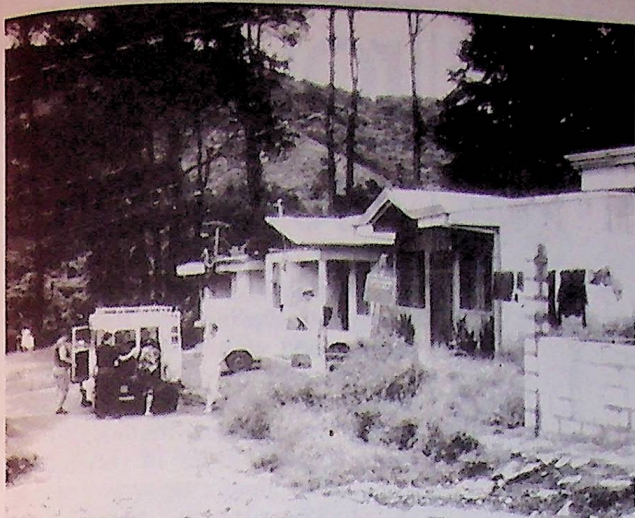
International pressure is vital to the cause of justice in El Salvador. The base communities are doing much at the grass roots to raise awareness and enable self-representation, but this is still only a drop in the ocean. What is really required is strong political pressure not only on the government of El Salvador, but also on the government of the United States, with strong condemnation of their Central American 'back yard' policy. This policy has caused, and continues to cause, endless problems and hardship not only for the poor of El Salvador, but for the nation of Nicaragua as well.

**'we talked at length of the relationship of the revolutionary states and the Kingdom of God'**

Nicaragua has been under Sandinista rule since the revolution of July 1979, which ousted the dictator Somoza. The government is not officially a Marxist government, but it is definitely left-of-centre. Since the revolution, illiteracy has been reduced by 40% and polio eradicated. However, since the Contra counter-revolution (funded by the US), polio has re-emerged to claim more victims.

During our time in Nicaragua we had an opportunity to speak with Rene Nuñez, Chief of Staff to the President, Daniel Ortega. He talked of the difficulties caused by the US embargo and the Contra war. Education and health schemes have been the main casualties of the struggle. He reminded us that Nicaragua has absolute respect for religious freedom - even to the point of allowing the growth of US backed right-wing Pentecostal Churches. We talked at length





*Christian Community food-run at Los Guido, San Jose in Costa Rica*



*Emmanuel Camp, San Salvador. There are six toilets, which are no more than buckets, between 100 families*

of the relationship of the revolutionary state and the Kingdom of God. He maintained that there is 'no contradiction between revolutionary practice and religious belief', arguing that whatever can be done in the historical context to further the Kingdom, must be carried out.

We also met Dr Gustavo Parajon, President of CEPAD (the Evangelical Centre for Aid and Development), a Protestant organisation responsible for working with housing schemes, health care, education programmes and cooperatives. CEPAD was initially set up to assist in the proper distribution of emergency aid to the victims of the 1972 earthquake (millions of pounds worth of aid was channelled off into the private accounts of Somoza and his associates). The centre is also involved in pastoral education and human rights work. Dr Parajon talked of the problems caused by the 'North American inspired' forms of personalised religious faith. These hold that possessions are the origin of God's blessings: 'for many, Jesus is a magician calling us to a life hereafter, coming to save our souls'.

We heard many more tales in Nicaragua of United States involvement in Central American affairs. But here, they are working against and not with the government. Government reforms and schemes have been hindered or stopped due to embargo-forced supply shortages, sabotage and diversion of funds towards the war effort. Contrary to popular misinformation, the government is not repressive in any way. Indeed, we came across none of the repression and abject poverty we had witnessed in El Salvador, a country ruled by a 'democratic' government backed by the United States.

My most enriching day in a base community in Costa Rica was spent at Los Guido, a makeshift camp for homeless families who had made their way to the city from the countryside. Los Guido was originally an area of land owned by a man whose surname was Guido. On his death the land was taken over by the government, because he had left no will and had no heirs, and was used for the disposal of rubbish. The camp itself sprung up as a result of a mass invasion of the land by the homeless peasants. Eventually, the camp was recognised by the government, which is now supplying building materials to the families at a reduced cost in order that a more permanent site can be created. During the early days of the camp, when it was still being used for the disposal of waste, the base community of Haguito, further out in the countryside, gave a hand in bringing drinking water into the camp. This relationship has been maintained and the people of Haguito, who have very little themselves, now undertake a twice weekly food run into the camp, ensuring that the elderly get at least two decent meals a week.

**'the majority of the fertile land in Costa Rica is used to grow cash-crops for export'**

I was present when one of these food runs took place. The meal was served in a tin shack which is used as a school building, general meeting place and Sunday morning worship centre. The food consisted of fresh fruit, beans and rice and was devoured with great fervour. Although the condition of these people did not seem to be as bad as that of the people of El Salvador, the dreadful conditions in which they live are nevertheless a bitter indictment of First World exploitation. These people have been forced to the city in order to beg, steal or, if they are lucky, find work. They are unable to produce enough from their land to feed their families because the majority of the fertile land in Costa Rica is used to grow cash crops for export, with enormous tracts of land being used for the production of coffee and flowers. The land itself is usually foreign-owned. The story is similar in El Salvador and Guatemala. Such foreign holdings have been nationalised in Nicaragua and used for the production of products for home consumption.

'I implore you, I beg you, I order you in the name of God: stop the repression!' The day after delivering this appeal, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was assassinated. Such is the cost of discipleship in Central America. The very least that the catholic Church can do is to enter into the struggle of our brothers and sisters, who are but a different part of one body. Jon Sobrino in *The True Church and the Poor* sums up the task facing the Church in 'the light of repression and exploitation. 'The cries of the Latin American people rise up from the elementary level. God hears these cries. Only by hearing these cries and turning them into hope and the practice of liberation will the Church be conformed to the basic reality of God'.

■ Andrew Dawson is an ordinand of the United Reform Church currently studying at Chicago Theological Seminary, where he is looking in more detail at base ecclesial communities. He is being supported in his training by a grant from the Tubby Clayton Fund.

■ For books on Central America - see page 13.



# your letters

We reserve the right to edit letters.  
Only letters with full name and address  
will be considered for publication.

Tel: 9 Editorial Office  
38 Newark Road  
London  
E1 2AA

This month *Point 3* has only received one letter! Write to your monthly magazine with your views, suggestions and let other members know what you are thinking!



## RECONCILIATION?

Reading Mr Stayman's letter (*Point 3*, September) from a self-confessed 'older member' with 'whipper-snapper' type views, it seemed that, happily, the die for reconciliation as Toc H's 'theme' for the future is cast and that Toc H can face the 1990s confidently. But something also tells me that I am naive and optimistic (a self-confessed 'younger member', hovering towards the mid-30s and with six years of the projects scene behind me). I felt I had to return to Tim Day's letter in July ('Which Camp?') - provokingly flippant in parts but tantalisingly real; and in particular his last paragraph about reconciliation and attitude towards (any) faith.

I felt a strong wave of sympathy for David Mayhew's reply to Tim's letter in September, undoubtedly because I am a Christian and can see here, I believe, fundamental divisions between 'new' and 'old' Toc H philosophy. I hope he will forgive me, if I say that I think Mr Mayhew's letter, unfortunately, belies the fact that 'Christianity is a religion, and Toc H is not or should not be'. The focus of Toc H, commendably taken in the past as 'the perception of the way of Jesus', has to be worded differently now to bring in and appeal to all our people in Britain, now a multi-faith and multi-ethnic society, as well as in other countries. Discrimination will, realistically, never be a thing of the past either here or abroad. Being dogmatic about the 'Truth' can only be, if not arrogant, at least insensitive and can only serve to widen the separations - a far cry from reconciliation. I wonder how the CEC will get to grips with all this - I wish them luck, because this year decisions about direction must be made.

Julie Welch  
London

Remember - to fit in with design and print schedules, we prepare each issue approximately six weeks in advance. So to make sure that your letter is in in good time for the December issue, please get it to the Editorial Office by 25 October.

## NEW CENTRAL COUNCILLORS -ATTENTION!

MARCH 9-11 1990

Development Officers Tim Day and John Burgess will be running a special weekend next year to help you to interpret the new role which Central Councillors now have.

The focus will be on the new geographical areas involved and on the responsibilities which you will have. Everyone will participate on what should be an active and enjoyable weekend.

All applications should be sent to:  
Timothy J Day,  
2 Church View,  
Buckingham Rd, South  
Holmwood, Nr Dorking,  
Surrey, RH5 4LB. Tel:  
0306 889369

# rounds

## A Joyful July

July was a very hectic but exhilarating month for the members of the **Gorleston Jt. Branch**. It commenced with a week's holiday in Poperinge for several members who were paying their first visit which was indeed memorable in every respect. Later in the month some 30 members enjoyed an afternoon outing via coach along the Norfolk Coast, which included tea, at the invitation of the padre of the men's branch, and Evensong.

On 21 July, some 20 members stood at the alert in various places in Gorleston for an official Flag Day, and this time were favoured with excellent weather which helped towards a magnificent result of £228.95 which went to help the Holiday for Handicapped at Hengrave Hall in September.

The last weekend in the month saw the annual Bowls Tournament. This event used to attract many teams and was a prominent feature in the Norfolk Toc H calendar but contestants have now sadly decreased in numbers. However, there was much fun and hilarity in the games, played in glorious sunshine, and it proved a pleasant and successful occasion. Finally, there was the Senior Citizens' annual outing and tea, when some 40 guests enjoyed a coach trip into Suffolk, followed by a sing-song led by members of the Singing Group.

## Newark Street Community House

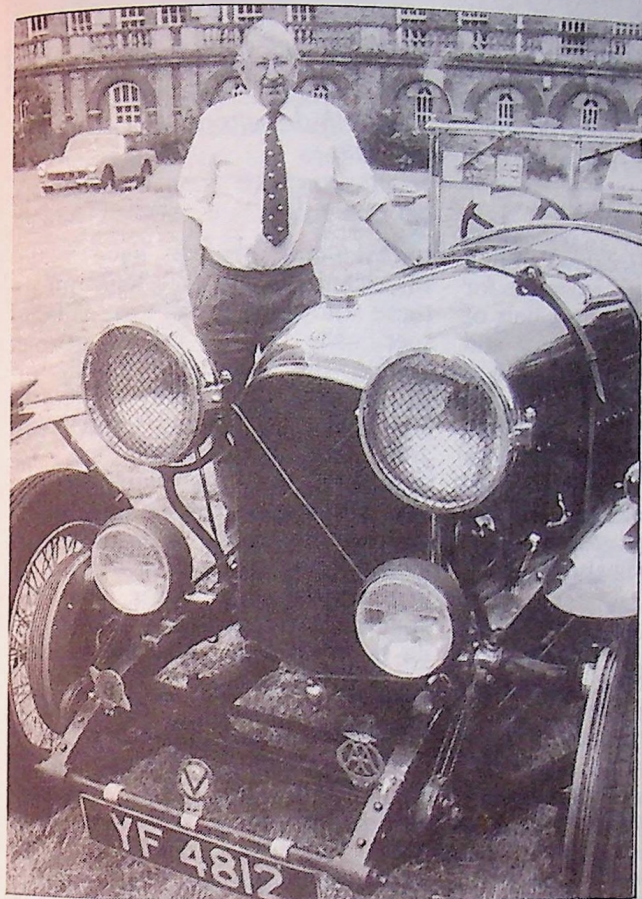
THOC (Tower Hamlets Opportunity Centre) - who use the house regularly - held an Open day on 1st June, which was well attended by people who had a vested interest within the community in the Health and Social services. The day was well planned and extremely informative, for those wishing to, or already doing, work with the under fives. A youth worker from Sunshine Youth Project (St Mary's Centre) presented a cheque for £300 to TOC H with thanks as a 'payment'



Swindon District members, Bentham House residents and project volunteers enjoy a barbeque in the grounds of the house. Bentham House is the home of 'Music for Living' - a charity providing music therapy for people with learning difficulties.



Photo: David Pope



Photos: North London & Herts Newspapers

Toc H had a stall and a Task Force at the Friern Hospital Summer Fair - it was the North London District Weekend Project. Don Lockhart, a Vice-President of Toc H, was there with his vintage three-litre Red Lable Du Bentley, which has done more than a million miles. And on the Toc H stall there was some fun with face painting!

for use of the basement for his youth club. They have now moved to other premises with more facilities. A new youth group has been started for young Bangladeshi school children (funded principally by the Wakefield Trust), which is part of the Tower Hamlets Youth Association. This project has the use of the large rooms during the weekend for teaching purposes. It is a response to the low academic performances of some Bangladeshi children in Tower Hamlets. The Parent Advisor Group organised by Pat Justice, Tower Hamlet Social Services, completed its 1988/89 course in June. The next course has now started. The course, on Health Education and Social Welfare problems, is aimed at families in Tower Hamlets.



Photo: Arthur Rust

Participants of the Toc H Children's Holiday Project organised by Hythe Branch. There was a full programme of events for the 12 boys from London boroughs including visits to the zoo and a Venetian Fete and boating on Hythe canal.





Photo: Kenish Express

Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers

Wroughton Branch held a fair in August which raised about £100. Here Shirley Griffiths sells her lace cushions on one of the many craft stalls.

The South East District ran another successful holiday for children with special needs in the Topwers School, Kennington. Because of the sunny weather they were able to go out on a number of trips and there was a wide variety of other activities. Donna Simmonds had a birthday while she was on the project and is seen here being given a celebratory ride in the pool by the Mayor, John Simpson.

## points

A mixed group of able-bodied and disabled people recently spent a week's holiday at Strode Park in Kent, thanks to the members of **Bexhill-on-Sea Branch**. Some of the participants had never had a holiday before and all enjoyed themselves. Joy Tubb, Central Councillor, and Philip Walker, Development Officer, planned the project; Bexhill Branch supported it with enthusiasm and raised the £1000 required and Philip led the project with Sue Biggerstaff, former Editorial Assistant, *Point 3*. See this month's 'Update' for more news on these two!

As part of the 'Walking Challenge' weekend, 23-26 June (a Haywain District project), **Elmstead Market Branch** gave tea to eight residents of Hamilton Lodge and the volunteers accompanying them. It took place in Elmstead Vicarage garden. After tea they all took part in badminton and croquet games.

**Stockport and Cheadle Hulme Branches** joined together recently to honour the Rev David Wilkinson, their Toc H District Padre for the last 6 years. A presentation of a leatherbound Methodist Order of Service book and Methodist Hymn book (words and music) was made to David on behalf of the Toc H members of both branches by Mr Robin Fryer (Jobmaster), who was deputising for Mr Bert Hill (Pilot) who at that time was away at Talbot House in Poperinge performing the duties of Acting Warden. A bouquet of flowers was also presented to David for his wife.

During a recent Holiday/Painting week at Alison House, a cheque for £50 was presented to the Chair of the Cromford Play Group and Mother & Toddler Group, based at the centre. The presentations were made on behalf of **Codsall Women's Branch**. The money is intended to help boost a fund to provide toilet and washing facilities in the hut used by the groups. Other users of the house will also benefit.

**Stowmarket Branch** recently took a party of 50 disabled and housebound people for an outing to Clacton. They were able to relax and walk in the gardens before being served a delicious tea at Clacton United Reformed Church Hall by the Clacton Women's Branch. After tea, entertainment was provided by George Berry of Ipswich Toc H who played his accordion to accompany 'Old Time' songs. The branch also recently held a Coffee Evening, with a draw, good-as-new clothes, books and a home-made cake stall, which raised the sum of £134 for the blind. 'We were so pleased' writes *M. Stammers, Secretary*, 'as we have got very despondent of late. We have felt that we would have to close our branch as numbers have dwindled due to illness and old age. But when a few of us get together, isn't it surprising what we can achieve. It has given us fresh courage to soldier on.'

A very successful Boot Fair was held by **Ilythe Toc H** in the summer. 130 'Boots' participated. There was also a fun castle for the children. The proceeds went to the Welfare Coach Appeal, now standing at over £11,000.

**Buckingham Branch** have eight wheelchairs which they lend out to those who need them. One is kept specifically for the use of people visiting the graves of family or friends at the local cemetery. However, the demand is so great and new wheelchairs are so expensive, that the members are always trying to increase their stock and recently made an appeal in a local paper for any old unused wheelchairs - no matter what the condition! The branch are happy to do them up and make them fit to use.

**Wellingborough Branch** recently celebrated its 60th birthday with a supper and a sing-song. Some two weeks later members entertained local elderly, disabled and housebound people to a concert followed by refreshments - a concert which wouldn't have been the same without the local group The Good Companions. Special thanks to chairman David Casford, who initiated both events, which cemented relationships and gave great joy to all involved.

The **Tunbridge Wells East Group**, formed at the end of January, is thriving, and bringing Toc H to an area which had not known the movement before. There have been a number of social events, outings for pensioners and 'odds and ends' sales. The group has also become involved in local concern over transport problems. The latest idea is a series of monthly discos to attract young people. Membership of the group now stands at 13 of whom nine have applied for full membership.



# book review

## The Conflicts of Central America

**FAITH IN STRUGGLE - The Protestant Churches in Nicaragua and their Response to the Revolution**  
by David Haslam

Epworth Press, £4.95

10 years after the revolution, Nicaragua is still struggling against poverty, international debt and a costly war. In a country where 98% of the population are said to be Christians, where the government claims Christian inspiration and the Contras are seen as the anti-Christ, Church and State, faith and politics, cannot be separated. In this book, David Haslam presents a wide-ranging account of the complexities of the political situation in Nicaragua and a detailed analysis of the reaction of the various Protestant denominations to this situation.

The history and cultural make-up of each of the major Churches is shown to contribute greatly to their response to the revolution and present Sandinista policies. On the one hand there are those members of the Protestant Committee for Aid to Development who assist in government initiatives such as literacy drives and community health projects. On the other hand there are those denominations, largely aided by churches in the USA, who have prayed for more American aid to the Contras. But in a chapter entitled 'Struggling for Incarnation', Haslam shows how the different attitudes shown by the Churches towards Sandinista policies are not merely historical but arise from their different conceptions of Christ. In such a heightened situation, theological differences acquire concrete significance. This is a very important chapter for British Churches, whose theological and political stances are becoming increasingly polarised. It is a challenge to them to examine exactly where their ideas of Christ's incarnation are leading.

The concept of Christ which is at the heart of Liberation Theology is brought to life through biographies of five recent martyrs and the

thoughts of many Nicaraguan Christians. They seem to be endowed with the spirit of the early Church, as they constantly put their faith into action. Their concept of Christ as 'the key participator in God's on-going involvement in the painful human struggle against selfishness and sin' leads them to a spirituality which cannot rest while unjust structures remain, for it sees them as deeply destructive of human dignity and therefore atheistic, a real and manifest rejection of God.

The book ends with a direct challenge to British Christians to recognise and analyse the unjust structures in our own society and to cement our faith in struggling against them.

Gualter de Mello

■ Rev Gualter R. de Mello is a worker priest at Prideaux House, a basic community in the East End of London

**THE VIOLENCE OF LOVE - The Words of Oscar Romero**

by James R Brockman

Fount, £3.50

Oscar Romero became Archbishop of El Salvador on February 22, 1977. He was assassinated on March 24, 1980, whilst conducting mass at the Cancer Hospital of San Salvador.

During those three years, Romero acted as mediator and peacemaker in a land ravaged by many years of brutal and bloody civil war. Reviled by those in power for his constant criticism of their unbridled violence against the people; loved by the people for his fearless stand on behalf of the powerless and voiceless masses of his country, Romero truly incarnated the very spirit of the beatitudes by which he lived. Each week he delivered his homiletic reflections via radio to the people of El Salvador. He maintained that these reflections tried 'to be the voice of those who have no voice. And so, without doubt, they displease those who have too much voice'. *The Violence of Love* is a collection of many of these homilies along with a variety of other material.

On reading it one enters into Romero's personal struggle. Week after week, he sought to convey to the poverty-stricken thousands of his country a sense of worth and dignity in the eyes of God and of

their fellow men. 'The world does not say "Blessed are the poor". The world says "Blessed are the rich. You are worth as much as you have". But Christ says "Wrong. Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven; for they do not put their trust in what is transitory"'. As one travels with Romero to his death, the reality that Christ calls each of us to become active subjects within history, striving for the causes of justice, peace and equality, becomes unshakeably clear. 'We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God demands of us' - Oscar Romero was shot dead whilst concluding this homily.

Andrew Dawson

■ Andrew Dawson writes on 'The Practice of Liberation' on pages 8 and 9.

**FRAGILE VICTORY**

by Alison Rooper

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £5.95

*Fragile Victory* is an account of the Nicaraguan revolution. Alison Rooper lived in Condega among the peasants, travelled with them, listened to their stories - and has produced a book which gives an unvarnished picture of her experiences interspersed with mini-biographies and background information about the political history of Nicaragua. Within this framework she covers the changing role of women, the adaptation of religion with the development of Liberation Theology and the upsurge of its countermovement, the American-backed fundamentalists. She explains the government's reasoning behind its controversial censorship of the press and reports on its efforts to educate and unite the people in the face of economic sanctions, torture and massacres by the Contras. Most impressive of all is the book's portrayal of a remarkable people. Each community fights vigilantly to maintain hope and unity and to uphold the ideals of a revolution which is about not only economics, but independence, individuality, culture and identity and the determination of the Nicaraguan people to define their own terms.

Lisa Strickland-Clark

■ Lisa Strickland-Clark is a Senior Account Rep. working in recruitment.



## new members

The following new members were registered during September/October:

Mrs Lavingia Sharda  
(Birmingham District)  
Ceryl W Davies  
(Blaenau Ffestiniog J)  
Mrs Marie Broughton (Bracknell J)  
Miss Diane A Bolton  
(Bridlington TAG J)  
Herbert Carlisle (Cheltenham J)  
Philip Green (Corwen)  
Rev Andrew J Evans  
(Much Wenlock J)  
Rev Douglas J Nudds  
(North Walsham J)  
Edward R Brewer (Purton M)  
Mrs June Hutchens, Mrs Nena  
Spicer, Mrs Angela Williamson  
(Weymouth J)

Welcome to 12 new members

## staff news

**Ian Pearce** has been appointed as Fund Raiser.

**Alison Andrienx** has been appointed LTV (Southern) with Carol Button starting on 1 October 1989.

## A Cuddesdon Wedding

Of course, it should have been a sparkling, bright day - warm sunshine with clear air allowing those beautiful views of the Chilterns which the visitor to Cuddesdon can enjoy. In the event - well, it was one of those weekends when the weather reminded us that it was not to be relied upon. However, it would have taken a great deal more than a grey, wet day to spoil the wedding of Philip Walker and Sue Biggerstaff in the Chapel at Cuddesdon. It was a wedding for which Toc H has to accept some responsibility - not only does Philip work for Toc H in Kent, and Sue has, until recently, been the assistant editor of this magazine, but Philip's mother, Anne Crouch, and Sue's father, better known as John Biggerstaff are also both members of staff. Furthermore the clergy who officiated at the wedding were Alan Johnson, the National Chaplain and Colin Rudd who has only recently

# update

## farewell

to **Hans Temmel**, who has retired after 40 years as Accountant to the Toc H Services Clubs in Germany. Keith Rea, a former Commissioner, BAOR, writes a few words in thanks.

'Hans Temmel joined the Toc H staff in Herford in 1948 and has remained there ever since. Prior to getting Government help, Toc H Services work lurched from crisis to crisis, staffing was difficult, and at one point the Accounts showed a nil balance! But Hans stuck with us and provided an anchor of loyalty for the sometimes green commissioners and staff sent out to run the Services show. On his retirement, he will be missed not only by Toc H, but by all the organisations of the Council of Voluntary Welfare Work which are also based in Herford.

'I know that Hans will continue to value and live out his membership during what I hope will be a very happy retirement.'



left to be the vicar of three country parishes. If ever proof were needed that you don't have to have a large crowd to make for a 'good wedding' you would have found it here. The size of the Chapel meant that there could only be a small group of close family present at the service, but as a joyful occasion it would have taken some beating. In the quiet intimacy of the Chapel of Christ the King, Philip and Sue's wedding was celebrated with a solemn delight which those who were present will remember for a long time.

Then it was time for the inevitable photographs around the Chapel door. Everyone was glad of the covered way, but there was no lack of competition to avoid standing on the garden side of a group - doing

## obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

### In April

Charles B Wyatt (Bognor Regis)

### In July

Norman H Harrild (Sevenoaks)

### In August

Lilian Burdett (Luton)  
Bertram F Danvers (Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale)  
Florence G Dunford (South West Counties)  
Sidney R T Salmon (North Walsham)  
John M Stamp (Felpham)

### In September

Leonard Camm (Syston)  
Sidney Cantell (Denton)  
Mr T A Corley (Broadland)  
Dorothy M E Faulkner (Nottingham)  
Winifred M Leach (Saltford)  
Jessie M Sturch (Birmingham)  
Kitty Taylor (Plymstock)

Dear **Chrissie Miller** recently died at the age of almost 104. She and her husband were close friends of Tubby Clayton, who made her a foundation member of Toc H long before there were any women members. Many of us remember her open-hearted hospitality when they lived in Ayr where she founded the branch of the League of Women Helpers. Although she had been housebound since her 100th birthday she took an eager interest in all her friends and in the world's news.

FB

so meant standing in the rain, and the patient official photographer (yes, another member of the Toc H staff - John Burgess) had no trouble in photographing smiling, laughing people - and one or two rather damp ones!

The conference room had been transformed into a pleasant dining room, and we sat down there to an excellent lunch. Speeches, toasts and telegrams all added to the spirit of celebration, and moved us into part three of the day. There were many who had wished to come and express, in person, their love and good wishes, and now the party in the lounge grew steadily as friends from Toc H and beyond came together for the afternoon. So the celebration of Philip and Sue's love and their wedding expanded to include a broader celebration of friendship. It was a delightful day - and who cared about the weather!

**Colin Rudd**

■ Sue will not be changing her name and the couple will be known as Mr Philip Walker and Ms Sue Biggerstaff.



Charles Thornton of Hunstanton Branch, who died recently, was quite a character. He had been a Toc H member in London before the War - he had loved those days and often reminisced about them. He was a book-binder by trade. We shall miss him.

MPF

With the death of John Harold Turner, Cheltenham Branch have lost one of their longest-serving and well loved members. John joined Toc H in 1938 in Barnsley at the age of 23. He was an active member of Cheltenham Branch for 36 years and had been Chairman since 1981. Quiet and unassuming, John will best be remembered as a natural visitor to the sick and the elderly, whether at home or in hospital. Our lives are the richer for having known him.

EGV

Sevenoaks Branch were sorry to lose Norman Harrild, an active member of the branch for over 30 years, in July. He had held almost every office and served as a Central Councillor in the 1960s. He will be remembered for the high ideals he set for both himself and the branch.

CR

Wroughton men's Branch were sad to lose their chairman Tom Fisher in the summer. He will be sadly missed.

FD

Jack (John) Goss, who died aged 83 in August, was a foundation member of Toc H in Portsmouth and had been involved in the movement at every level from branch to Central Council. He was a City Commissioner for Scouts for many years and in 1960 was awarded an OBE for his services to education. He was Principal of Portsmouth Dockyard Technical College.

JF

Cliff Henshall was a member of Shavington branch for some 35 years. He was a very quiet man who always saw service and friendship as a way of life. He was a leading member in the branch, in his local Methodist church and in village life. We shall miss him but will treasure the memory.

CHC

We give thanks for their lives

## small ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to *Point 3 Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 38 Newark Street, London E1 2AA. Tel: 01 375 0547

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc. gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelities, Bradford BD3 8BT.

Helen Powell offers relaxation massage, reflexology and counselling. Professional, qualified service. Home visits London area. Reasonable rates. Phone 01 790 1735 or enquire: 59a Arbour Square, London E1 0PS.

Hythe, Kent - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board. Christmas booking now being taken. Rates negotiable. Enquire: Nesta Cock, 7 Tournay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407.

Christian Singles, friendship contacts, fellowship groups, social events, nationwide. Weekend houseparties. Holidays. Christian Fellowship Friendship, St Nicholas Close, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 2QD.

# FROM COCKPIT TO PULPIT

by  
The Reverend Stanley Coulson, MBE,  
Squadron Leader Royal Air Force (Retired)

In his book, Stanley Coulson passes on a wealth of experience that is an example to all. It is as relevant to us today as it is an historical insight into the Royal Air Force of the past.

Rev. Stanley Coulson, MBE, has had a long and distinguished association with the RAF, both in and out of uniform, for over 60 fascinating years. *From Cockpit to Pulpit* is a book that may, perhaps, serve as some form of counter to the trivia and pap our media serve up to us these days as examples of everyday life.

Stanley Coulson, through his long friendship and commitment to Prideaux House, as Chairman of the Management Committee during its Toc H history and, latterly, as Patron of Friends Anonymous Service, has had the Prideaux House hotel wing named after him.

This book is being sold at £3.50 net in the UK and all proceeds from sales will go to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. There is a scale of discounts for 10 or more copies which helps fundraisers who are thinking about Christmas outlets.

For more information, please contact:

The Community of Reconciliation and Fellowship,  
Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent,  
London E9 7DL Tel: 01 986 2233



## Prideaux House

The Community and Fellowship of  
Friends Anonymous Service

Prideaux House is not a hotel, nor a boarding house, nor a hostel. It is the home of a community of people who have found their faith in God very real and relevant.

Our aim is to offer good quality accommodation in a homely atmosphere for that short break in London, near the West End, theatres, shops, museums and concerts. Ideally suited for persons attending conferences, courses, business meetings, interviews, and for those in need of relaxation. Perfect for groups or persons wanting peace and quiet.

Accommodation is offered in The Stanley Coulson Wing of our Community House and Centre in ten single (only) rooms, and all proceeds support our work in Hackney.

Each bedroom has a very high standard of furnishing with own wash-basin. There are good shower facilities, lounges, TV Room, small garden and the Community Chapel. Wholesome cooking is the norm. Sadly, accommodation is not suitable for children, smokers and persons on specific orthodox diets.

For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical Interfaith Centre,  
10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL. Telephone: 01 986 2233.

(If writing, state name of paper, quoting 'ACC/87'.)



# Scared of Missing the Next Issue of Point 3?

Don't rely on other people to show you their copy; make sure you get one by taking out a personal subscription. For just £2 a year\* you could have *Point 3* delivered to you every month. Here are just some of the things you'll be reading about in the coming months:

Our series of special issues on the world's great religions will continue with a look at Hinduism and at Buddhism. We shall be examining some of the issues facing us in Britain today, such as the plight of refugees and the approach to mental health. Our 'Starting Point' series will continue with articles on Talbot House and Tubby Clayton - and *Point 3* itself! We'll be hearing what it's like to be a Toc H Development Officer. And for 1990, Toc H's 75th anniversary year, we'll be carrying a special series of articles looking at the movement's unique contribution in bringing people together who wouldn't otherwise meet. All this plus our regular book reviews and, of course, news and views from within the movement.

Take out your subscription to *Point 3* now by sending this form to:

**Toc H Despatch Department, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6BT.**

Please send me *Point 3* each month for one year. I enclose cheque/postal order for £2 (payable to Toc H).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*Any contribution towards the cost of postage will be gratefully received.*

# TOC H CAROL SERVICE

at  
**ALL HALLOWS**

**SATURDAY  
16 DECEMBER  
2.30 pm**

Details from: **Connie Pring,  
39 Princes Plain, Bromley,  
Kent, BR2 8HL**

**Tel: (01) 462 8164  
(after 7 pm)**

# Toc H Peace Bell Appeal

Many people have asked how the Peace Bell Appeal is progressing. Freda Coomes is delighted to report that she has been overwhelmed by the response and that, at time of going to press, the balance stood at £295.

'I am appealing for a further effort to be made' she writes, 'to enable the balance to be cleared. It would be nice to think that at Christmas 1989, when the bells at Mesen (including our own) ring out, they will be saying 'Thank You' in our own minds to everyone who has helped in this wonderful effort'.

Joyce Beeken adds her special thanks to the Birthday Scheme, for their donation of £130 to the appeal; and to those who contributed to the collections in the Upper Room in Talbot House on Sunday 17 September, which raised £26 for the fund.

All cheques should be made out to: **Toc H Melton & Charnwood District** and sent to: **Mrs Freda Coomes, 109 Church Hill Rd, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8DG.**

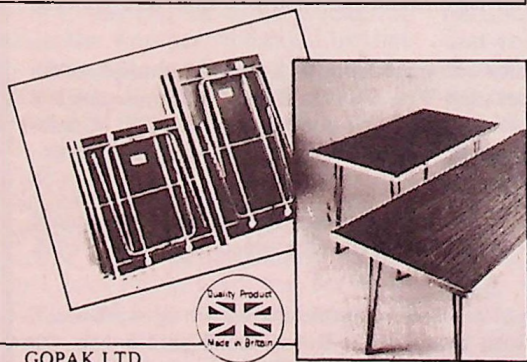


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